

commonsense legislation to help lower fuel prices.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS IMPROVE AMERICA'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to strengthening America's energy policies and lowering gas prices for families throughout our country. From supporting legislation to build more refineries to approving environmentally safe energy production, we have proposed commonsense initiatives that will provide a long-term solution to our energy crisis.

While Democrats may demagogue about any positive proposals, House Republicans continue to act on real reforms that will increase America's energy independence. Tomorrow, the House will consider the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act, introduced by Congressman BOBBY JINDAL, which empowers States to protect their coastlines by restricting energy production to the deep seas more than 100 miles away from our shore. Additionally, this bill allows more of America's massive energy resources to be produced on the Outer Continental Shelf.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for an increase in the minimum wage.

We should show the Nation that we understand it has been too long since we increased the minimum wage. We should be ashamed it takes a full day's pay at minimum wage to fill up your car at the pump.

Congress has not raised the \$5.15 minimum wage since 1997. We are approaching a decade since we have addressed perhaps the most important issue for hardworking, low-income Americans.

This Congress has given billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, and we should help people who are working to make ends meet.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know it has gotten to be a habit. I would like to raise a point of order that a lot of Members from the Republican side seem to come up and stand at the podium when we are speaking, and I would hope we would not do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. Members should not traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has given billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. We should help people who are working to make ends meet.

Under this administration, costs for everything are up. Housing, health care and college tuition have all become more expensive and continue to rise. Yet a minimum wage earner can at best earn \$10,700 a year.

I look forward to voting on a minimum wage increase in the near future, and I hope our leadership has the courage to bring this important issue to the floor. Let's increase the minimum wage now.

□ 1015

SUPPORT THE WARN ACT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. First of all, Mr. Speaker, let me apologize to my colleague. I have been doing this for 9 years, and I am just trying to be efficient. That is all.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, along with my colleagues, Representatives WYNN, BONO, ENGLISH, and MELANCON, I introduced the House version of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act, also known as the WARN Act. The Emergency Alert System has not kept pace with our increasingly wireless and mobile society.

The WARN Act will help bring the Emergency Alert System into the 21st century by ensuring that, regardless of where an individual is or what kind of communication technologies they are using, they will receive a life-saving alert. Some examples of instances where they would receive an alert would be in response to all threats to public safety, including natural disasters, man-made accidents, and terrorist incidents.

The act also establishes a network for transmission of alerts across a broad variety of communication technologies, including wireless communication devices like cell phones and BlackBerrys; also things such as the Internet, digital, analog, cable, and satellite television, and satellite and terrestrial radio, as well as nontraditional media such as the public warning sirens.

This is in response to the recommendations of the White House on the Katrina report. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting the WARN Act.

REPUBLICAN DO-NOTHING CONGRESS REFUSES TO ADDRESS OUR NATION'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this week, the House Republican leadership will once again leave town for another recess without seriously addressing our Nation's energy crisis. House Republicans have trumpeted this week as Energy Week. You would think if they were really serious about tackling this crisis we would spend the entire week debating a comprehensive energy proposal that would end our reliance on foreign oil and foster new energy technologies.

Instead, we get more of the same from the Republican leadership. Energy Week has turned into Energy Day, a debate on one bill that would allow oil and gas companies to drill on the Outer Continental Shelf off both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Drilling off our coasts is not only environmentally and economically risky, but it is not possible for another 7 years. How is that supposed to help consumers today? The answer is that it is not.

House Republicans are only interested in lining the pocketbooks of the oil and gas companies. If House Republicans were serious about addressing our energy crisis, the House would debate my legislation that would reduce the price of a barrel of oil by \$20. Instead, we spend 1 day on a bill that does nothing to assist Americans with the high cost of energy.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, as it celebrates its sesquicentennial.

In 1856, three settlements along the Mississippi River formed the City of St. Cloud. Bolstered by the area's rich granite deposits, St. Cloud's local economy grew quickly, and it remains today the largest metropolitan area in central Minnesota.

Home of St. Cloud State University and nearby St. John's University and the College of Saint Benedict, as well as a multitude of parks, community organizations, and thriving businesses, St. Cloud has built a reputation as a positive place for families and a community that works together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for St. Cloud, a city that has brought 150 years of pride to the State of Minnesota.

REPUBLICAN RX DRUG PLAN IS ACTUALLY DRIVING UP PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)